



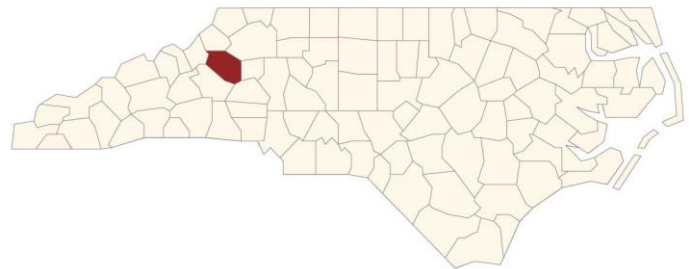
On February 17, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. ARRA provides increased support to several existing federal programs administered by states, creates new programs such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, and offers opportunities for states to apply for competitive grant programs.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's significant investment in North Carolina totaled almost \$19.5 billion, including assistance for those needing help the most through increases in unemployment benefits, Medicaid payments, and food stamps. In addition to those expanded services, ARRA gives hundreds of thousands of working North Carolinians a break through tax credits like the *Making Work Pay* tax credit and the *First Time Homebuyer's* tax credit.

The Recovery Act is not like earlier attempts to revive the nation's economy. It is not only a one-time infusion of federal funds; instead it is a long-term effort to restore economic expansion in the short-term, as well as prepare the nation's economy for stable, healthy long-term growth. Under the terms of the Recovery Act, support for North Carolina's economy will include both investments made directly by the federal government and investments of federal funds that are made under the oversight of the North Carolina state government.

## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Report, Caldwell County

Caldwell County received more than \$91 million in ARRA funding in grants, loans, and bonds. The following report outlines the various funding categories that contributed to the Caldwell County total.



**Pell Grants Awards:**  
**2547**



**Small Business Jobs:**  
**23**

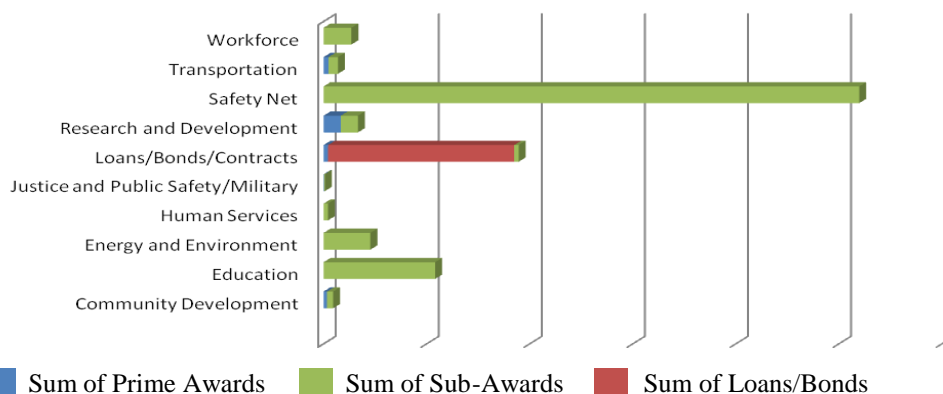


**Appliances rebated:**  
**180**



**Family homes financed:**  
**115**

### Caldwell County Totals



**Caldwell County,**  
pop 80,059 at a glance:

#### Recovery Act Totals:

Grants: \$73,701,228

Loans: \$12,843,268

Bonds: \$5,219,861

**Total: \$91,764,357**



## Education

The Recovery Act placed a special emphasis on maintaining education funding. Governor Beverly Perdue furthered this commitment by pledging additional recovery funds from the Recovery Act to education, and leading North Carolina to additional funds by winning \$400 million in the Race to the Top program.

Most of the ARRA education funds are distributed to local schools through existing funding formulas. Special Education Funds and Title I funds go to schools based on eligible student enrollment. State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF) and the EduJobs grants were designed to hold schools harmless during the recession, and were distributed to public and charter schools. The school systems have spent the majority of the funds on staff and support. Some projects, such as Race to the Top, will be spent for purchasing products and services rather than salaries for staff.

Authorization for low/no interest bonds for school construction/renovation followed the Department of Public Instruction procedures with initial allotments to the school systems. If a school system could not utilize their allotment, it was released to other school systems that could utilize additional allotments.

**Caldwell County schools** received \$21.5 million in education funding, including \$2.8 million in Special Education funds, \$1.6 million in Title I funds, \$7.8 million in SFSF funds, \$1.1 million in Race to the Top funding and a \$5.2 million bond allocation.

Pell Grants are an educational Assistance Program that provides grants to eligible students to receive post-secondary or vocational training. Because Pell Grants are not student loans, they allow students to receive financial assistance to further education and training without incurring additional debt. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act increased the eligibility and the maximum amount of Pell Grants in 2009 and 2010 as a way to encourage educational opportunities, and to provide a way for eligible applicants to gain new job skills.

**In Caldwell County**, Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute had 2547 students funded by Pell Grants; these grants were worth more than \$21.5 million.



## Family Assistance

The Federal Department of Agriculture increased funding to their Single-Family home program with the ARRA. These resources assisted families in achieving the American Dream of home ownership through direct financial assistance (grants) or credit (loan guarantees). This program pumped more than \$729 million into North Carolina, providing assistance to more than 5,400 families.

**In Caldwell County**, 115 families received assistance through this program totaling more than \$12.5 million.

The Department of Energy created the Energy Star Appliance rebate program to help stimulate the economy by incentivizing the purchase of new, more energy efficient appliances, and helping consumers by providing long-term savings from their utility bills. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce managed the

program insuring North Carolina residents and retailers received the maximum benefit from this opportunity. North Carolina retailers sold more than 25,500 new energy efficiency appliances through this program, and North Carolina residents will enjoy energy savings for years to come. The program was so successful, that the State Energy Office reprogrammed additional funding to provide discounts to everyone participating in the program, bringing the total program value from \$8 up to \$10 Million.

**Caldwell County** retailers sold 180 appliances through the Energy Star Appliance rebate program.



## Small Business Assistance

The ARRA provided tax breaks, increased depreciation of business assets, and incentives for hiring for small businesses through the tax law changes found in Part B of the Act. The Recovery Act also established direct aid programs through the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). These programs provided grants, loans and loan guarantees to grant small businesses access to much-needed operational credit during 2009 and 2010.

**In Caldwell County** 5 small businesses received SBA loan guarantees worth almost \$307,500. According to the small businesses receiving these loans, the Recovery Act saved or created 23 jobs.



## CARS Program

The Car Allowance Rebate Program (CARS), more widely known as the 'Cash-for-Clunkers' program, provided an incentive for drivers of older, energy inefficient vehicles to upgrade to new cars. This program also provided a large economic impact in North Carolina, and North Carolina dealers received more than 18,000 trade-in vehicles through this program. North Carolina Car Dealers sold more than \$400,000,000 worth of new cars (recommended MSRP) through the CARS program. North Carolina drivers will save 172,130 miles per gallon through cars purchased through this program.

**In Caldwell County**, car dealers sold 18 cars worth \$400,000 through the ARRA CARS program.



## Justice and Public Safety Programs

ARRA increased funding to the federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grants Program (JAG). JAG funds were awarded both as a formula allocation to the State, for \$34.5 million, and grants distributed by the Governor's Crime Commission to various local governments and entities. In addition, \$21,853,798 went to 216 local governments across the state for various purposes in line with the requirements of the act. Finally, there is a federal competitive portion that was open to state or local government applicants.

**In Caldwell County**, the Caldwell County Government and the Town of Lenior received \$70,000 in JAG program grants.



## Environment and Natural Resources Programs

ARRA funded several programs to protect the environment, or to develop natural resources more efficiently. These programs ranged from environmental clean-up, such as leaking underground storage tank abatement and Brownfields programs, to EPA clean air grants, wildfire prevention grants, and revolving funds to build, expand, or overhaul existing water and sewer programs. These programs provided nearly \$150 million across North Carolina.

**In Caldwell County**, the Town of Blowing Rock received a water and sewer grant worth more than \$2 million. In addition, the US Forest Service contracted for more \$140,000 in improvements to public lands.



## Green Energy Programs

One of the goals of ARRA was to provide grants to help conserve energy and assist in the development of a green economy. The State Energy Office in the North Carolina Department of Commerce received large grants for energy conservation under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These grants include the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), funded at just under \$20 million, and the State Energy Plan (SEP), funded at \$70 million. The State Energy Office then used these grants to make awards to businesses, non-profits, and local governments for various purposes.

**In Caldwell County**, Caldwell Community College received an SEP grant of \$301,701 to upgrade lighting to dimmable LED and install direct digital controls for building energy consumption automation. The Town of Lenoir received an SEP grant of \$116,306 for energy efficiency upgrades to 16 downtown businesses.



## Safety Net Programs

Safety net programs are the category of ARRA funding that consists of programs designed to help populations made particularly vulnerable by the economic crisis. These generally include increases in existing programs, most notably the increase in both benefit level and duration of unemployment payments. Increases in the amount and duration of unemployment payments makes up the largest chunk of safety net programs funded through the Recovery Act, totaling more than \$3.5 billion statewide over more than two years. Safety net programs such as unemployment insurance and SNAP (formerly known as Food Stamps), not only benefit the recipient, but have a proven economic impact on a community.

**Caldwell County** residents received more than \$41.7 million in Unemployment Insurance increases during the 2 ½ year ARRA benefits increase. County residents also received \$5.8 million in SNAP benefit increases, and \$4.4 million in one-time payments of \$250 to social security recipients.

# Caldwell County Feature Story

## Caldwell County Improves Schools with Recovery Opportunities

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act placed a special emphasis on infrastructure projects as a way to immediately impact jobs in the engineering and construction sectors, and as a way to make an important, lasting impact in communities. There were several mechanisms for this type of investment: additional funding for the USDA's Community Facilities program, additional funding for water and sewer programs in states, special competitive grant programs for high-demand bridge and road projects, and a historic high-speed rail program to connect large metropolitan areas, to name a few.

The Recovery Act also established several new bond programs with zero or very low interest to allow state, local, and private entities to design construction and renovation projects at the ground level where these projects would have the most impact on a local economy. These bond programs gave the green light to many long-awaited projects across the state, including the development of new libraries, hospital facilities, recreational facilities, the construction of new schools, highways, water systems, and improvements to a host of critical infrastructure. North Carolina entities used more than \$3 billion in Recovery Act bond capacity.

The Recovery Act provided \$24.8 billion in bond authority to states and local governments for school infrastructure through two primary programs: a new Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCBs) program and the expansion of the Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZABs) program. These are zero-interest, tax credit bond programs to provide a significant cost savings to school districts for construction and improvements. The Qualified School Construction Bond program provides Local Education Authorities with a method of funding construction/repair/renovation of public school facilities or for land acquisition for a public school facility.



Caldwell County received a \$5 million QSCB allocation. Caldwell County Schools used this bond funding to make improvements to 7 different schools in the county. Hudson Elementary received \$1.6 million for the construction of a new classroom addition. Sawmill Elementary received \$1.3 million to expand the cafeteria and add a new classroom. Davenport Elementary, Gamewell Middle School, and Hudson Middle school replaced heating and air conditioning systems. These improvements are valued at \$2.25 million. Gamewell Elementary School received \$645,000 in Recovery QSCB funding to repair a room in the school, and to replace the heating and air conditioning system.



## Appendix, Caldwell County breakout

Federal Agency	Program Title	Recipient name	Recipient role <sup>i</sup>	Prime Amount <sup>ii</sup>	Unique Sub Awards <sup>iii</sup>	Loans	Additional Economic Activity (not counted toward totals) <sup>iv</sup>
	Bonds		P			\$5,219,861.00	
	Cash for Clunkers		S		\$74,000.00		
	Federal Pell Grant Program	Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute	P				
	Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans - Guaranteed	Individuals	L			\$12,540,768.00	
<b>Administration for Children and Families</b>	ARRA - Child Care and Development Block Grant	Caldwell, County of	S	\$0.00	\$391,341.80	\$0.00	
<b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</b>	ARRA - Immunization	Caldwell, County of	S	\$0.00	\$33,559.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Multiple Individuals	S		\$5,880,942.42		
<b>Department of Energy</b>	Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG)	Caldwell, County of	S	\$0.00	\$490,487.00	\$0.00	
		Granite Falls, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$50,350.00	\$0.00	
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development</b>	Community Development Block Grants - Entitlement	Lenoir, City Of	P	\$39,522.00		\$0.00	\$39,522.00
	Community Development Block Grants - State HI	Sawmills, Town of	S	\$0.00	\$238,947.84	\$0.00	
	Public Housing Capital Fund Formula (Recovery Act Funded)	Lenoir Housing Authority	P	\$303,600.00		\$0.00	\$303,600.00
<b>Department of Justice</b>	Recovery Act - Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program / Grants To Units Of Local Government	Caldwell, County of	P	\$40,798.00		\$0.00	\$40,798.00
		Lenoir, City Of	P	\$29,329.00		\$0.00	\$29,329.00
<b>Department of</b>	Unemployment	Multiple	S		\$41,691,092.55		

<b>Labor</b>	Insurance	Individuals				
<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>	Capitalization Grants for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds	Blowing Rock, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$2,000,262.00	\$0.00
		Sawmills, Town of	S	\$0.00	\$235,226.00	\$0.00
<b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	Highway Planning and Construction	J.T. Russell & Sons, Inc.	PV	\$0.00		\$433,715.08
		North Carolina Department Of Transportation	P	\$478,748.00		\$0.00
		Vaughn & Melton Consulting Engineers	PV	\$0.00		\$2,297.87
	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Bryant's Land And Development Industries, Inc.	P	\$290,009.30		\$0.00
<b>Food and Nutrition Service</b>	Child Nutrition Discretionary Grants Limited Availability	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$30,214.11	\$0.00
<b>Forest Service</b>	No CFDA for Contract type awards	Greene, R L Surveying Pa	P	\$14,254.00		\$0.00
		Houck, Ronald C	P	\$46,500.00		\$0.00
				\$68,434.00		\$0.00
		Western Carolina Surveyors P A Inc	P	\$25,526.52		\$0.00
<b>Health Resources and Services Administration</b>	ARRA - Grants to Health Center Programs	West Caldwell Health Council Inc	P	\$250,000.00		\$0.00
				\$101,000.00		\$0.00
				\$1,300,000.00		\$0.00
				\$17,000.00		\$0.00
<b>Idaho Operations Office</b>	Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program (EEARP)		P			\$27,058.20
<b>National Energy Technology Laboratory</b>	State Energy Program	Bernhardt Furniture Company Inc	S	\$0.00	\$346,250.00	\$0.00
		Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute	S	\$0.00	\$301,701.00	\$0.00
		Granite Falls, Town Of	S	\$0.00	\$65,337.50	\$0.00
		Neptco Incorporated	S	\$0.00	\$458,500.00	\$0.00
		Sealed Air Corp	S	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Office of Elementary and Secondary Education</b>	Education Technology State Grants, Recovery Act	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$42,793.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) -	Caldwell Community College &	S	\$0.00	\$909,514.89	\$0.00

	Education State Grants, Recovery Act	Technical Institute				
		Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$6,924,314.00	\$0.00
	State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) - Race-to-the-Top Incentive Grants, Recovery Act	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,131,299.00	\$0.00
	Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, Recovery Act	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$1,680,540.00	\$0.00
<b>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services</b>	Special Education - Preschool Grants, Recovery Act	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$106,427.00	\$0.00
	Special Education Grants to States, Recovery Act	Caldwell County Board Of Education	S	\$0.00	\$2,705,659.00	\$0.00
<b>Small Business Administration</b>	Loans	Auto Inspection Express Inc	L			\$75,000.00
		Global Shippers Association LI	L			\$20,000.00
		Jimbob's	L			\$50,000.00
		Ribbons & Pearls	L			\$150,000.00
		Zachary C Smith	L			\$7,500.00
<b>SSA</b>	Social Security Economic Recovery Act Payments	Multiple Individuals	P		\$4,407,750.00	
<b>USDA</b>						
<b>Grand Total</b>				\$3,004,720.82	\$70,696,508.10	\$18,063,129.00 \$3,453,537.97

<sup>i</sup> Recipient Role are as follows: P is a prime recipient; S is a Sub-recipient; PV is a vendor to a prime recipient; SV is a vendor to a sub-recipient; L is a loan recipient.

<sup>ii</sup> Prime Amounts are unique prime awards within a county. These are entities who have received funding directly from a federal agency, and are required to report directly to [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov)

<sup>iii</sup> Unique Sub Awards are amounts that flow into a county from a source that is NOT directly from a Federal Agency. Generally these are funds awarded to the North Carolina State Government that have been directed to a local source.

<sup>iv</sup> Additional Economic Activity are economic activity attributable to a previous funding category. They may be a sub award by a prime recipient within a county, or a contract funded by one of the previous three columns. This economic activity is not counted toward the county total.